

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following “Cross-Reference to Related Applications” section:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/983,499, filed October 23, 2001, which claims the benefit of Japanese Application No. JP 2001-260708, filed August 30, 2001, both of which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

On page 21, please replace the “Abstract of the Disclosure” section as follows:

~~To provide a chuck device for avoiding loosening of the fastened condition, in which an annular ratchet tooth wheel is provided in a body, an annular nut member that engages with the claws and rotates together with the rotary sleeve is provided inside the rotary sleeve and behind the ratchet wheel within the body, a retainer spring member that is composed of a leaf spring made of metal and detached and attached for engaging the ratchet tooth wheel is disposed outside of the ratchet tooth wheel, the retainer spring member is provided under the condition the retainer spring member is rotated around the ratchet wheel in accordance with a rotation of a retainer spring receiving sleeve within the retainer spring receiving sleeve that rotates together with the nut member and that is fitted around the nut member and made of metal, the retainer spring member is mounted on the retainer spring receiving sleeve by a convex/concave engagement means, a holder spring member that is composed of a metal made leaf spring formed as a detachable/attachable separate member from the retainer spring member for holding a retention release condition between the ratchet tooth wheel and the retainer spring member and the retention condition between the ratchet tooth wheel and the retainer spring member is disposed at a position facing the retainer spring member outside the ratchet tooth wheel, the holder spring member is adapted in the retainer spring receiving sleeve to rotate around the ratchet tooth wheel in accordance with the rotation of the retainer spring receiving sleeve, the holder spring member is mounted on the retainer spring receiving sleeve by the concave/convex~~

engagement means, a metal made working sleeve that rotates together with the rotary sleeve and rotates through a predetermined angle relative to the retainer spring receiving sleeve is provided in the retainer spring receiving sleeve, a retainer working portion is provided in the working sleeve, the retainer working portion being composed of a retainer holder portion for maintaining a retention condition between the ratchet tooth wheel and the retainer spring member and a pressure portion for depressing the projection of the retainer spring member which is to be inserted into a hole portion of the retainer spring receiving sleeve and retaining the retainer spring member to the ratchet tooth wheel, a position holder portion for holding a position of the working sleeve to the retainer spring receiving sleeve to thereby hold the retention condition between the retainer spring member and the ratchet tooth wheel and the release condition between the retainer spring member and the ratchet tooth wheel is provided in the working sleeve, and the position holder portion is constituted by a projection of the holder spring member and a hole portion which is formed in the working sleeve and into which the projection is inserted, the projection is engaged with an elongated hole provided in the retainer spring receiving sleeve, the elongated hole has a tip end opening shape cut away from a tip end edge to a proximal end side of the retainer spring receiving sleeve so that the working sleeve may rotate within a range of the elongated hole to the retainer spring receiving sleeve and the nut member may rotate with the projection in contact with an inner end of the elongated hole, and the hole portion into which the projection of the retainer spring member is inserted has a tip end opening shape cut away from the tip end edge to the proximal end side of the retainer spring receiving sleeve.

A chuck is provided having a body defining an axis, a forward portion, guides oblique to the axis and converging toward the forward portion, and a groove extending around the body. A jaw is slidable within each respective guide and includes a thread section along an outer surface. A rotatable jaw-engaging mechanism engages the groove and includes a thread section engaging the thread sections of the jaws. A toothed member extends around the body, and an inner sleeve extends over the jaw-engaging mechanism to rotate the same and move the jaws in the guides toward the forward portion. One spring member engages the inner sleeve, forming a ratchet with the toothed member, and an outer sleeve extends over the inner sleeve. A metal intermediate sleeve between the inner and outer sleeves engages the springs and is rotatable with respect to

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the inner sleeve, upon application of a first torque therebetween, to urge the one spring member to ratchet with the toothed member, and to cooperate with another spring member to prevent rotation between the intermediate and inner sleeves, upon application therebetween of a greater second torque, to maintain ratcheting and prevent jaw retraction from the forward portion.